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Orgl International Organ
of Journalists
P-Davidson, Carl
P-Myerson, Michael

○PRAGUE AND HAVANA SEND FEELERS TO U.S. JOURNALISTS: The Moscow-directed International Organization of Journalists, based in Prague, has begun a campaign to recruit members from "some elements of the radical press" in the United States. In case the American journalists are a little turned off by Moscow's line, the recruiting pitch is being made with the cooperation of the Cuban Union of Journalists, IOJ's Havana affiliate. A letter inviting dialogue has been sent out by four U.S. writers to a selected list "of journals and individuals of the presses of Black, Chicano, Indian and Latin liberation; of Women's liberation, the labor and student movements, to many freelances and others working for the mass media." The letter suggests that joining IOJ will help the radical writer get easier access to travel behind the Iron Curtain and provide guidance to demonstrate international solidarity, in, say, freeing Regis Debray (jailed in Bolivia for a role in the Guevara-led rebellion) or get a passport for Wilfred Burchett (the Australian Communist who touts the Peking-Hanoi line from behind the Bamboo Curtain). Signers of the IOJ's letter are four well-known leftists: Carl Davidson of the Guardian, the left's longest-running non-CP-controlled publication and one of the founding elite of SDS; Elizabeth Sutherland Martinez, now with the Southwest's El Grito del Norte, a Chicano-oriented newspaper that is regularly spiced with pepper-hot helpings of Castroism; Joe Walker of the left-leaning Black Muslim newspaper, Muhammed Speaks; and Michael Myerson, described as a "freelance journalist based in New York." Myerson recently traveled to Cuba and Prague, and it's believed he made arrangements for Americans to attend a Havana IOJ conference in January in Havana. Myerson was until recently associated with International Publishers, the CP's publishing firm in NYC, and has publicly identified himself as a member of the Communist Party. He was formerly a leader of the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America, and led numerous "anti-discrimination" rallies in the San Francisco-Berkeley area in the early and mid-1960's.